1: Allen H-4 (no date) 1932 RI1 Georgia RI1



its district is the Hysperitis of Strabo. From the south many small streams fall into the Chorokhi; chief are the Tortomis-tsqali and the river of Olti. Here is the Georgian borderland, and the high pass which leads up from Erzerum to Tortomi is called in Georgian *Kartlis-Qeli*, in Turkish *Gurgi-Boghaz*—"the Georgian throat". The Georgians call this region Tao; the Armenians, Daikh. Here Xenophon's troops found themselves "*in the country of the Taokhoi, where provisions began to fail them; for the Taokhoi inhabited strong fortresses in which they had laid up all their supplies*".[1] It was in these parts towards the end of the sixth century that the family of Bagrationi, shrewd marcher-lords—playing their prospects between the kings of Armenia and Iberia, the Byzantines and the Persians—began to build the power which was to bring them later to the Armenian and Georgian thrones.

The Chorokhi, twenty-five miles above its mouth, turns north-east to the sea. At this point it receives the turbulent stream of Imer-Khevi, coming out of the mountains of Shavsheti, and a little before it has been joined by the smaller "river of Ardanuchi". The traveller might ascend the Chorokhi along its high banks to the neighbourhood of Artvini, and then ride up the precipitous valley of Ardanuchi, past the town of that name, and by Ardahani and its river to Akhaltzikhe and the Mtkvari highway into Georgia; alternately from Ardahani south to Kars and the valley of the Araks. This way by Artvini and Ardahani was only less important than the more familiar route by Trebizond and Erzerum. From the Georgian Annals the antique user of it is apparent; and if the identity of Ardahani (old Georgian Artaani) with Irdaniunis of the Urartian inscriptions be accepted, it would seem that the Khaldians and the sea-traders who had business with them, went by these mountains in the remotest times. Such, indeed, seems beyond dispute; for all the lower valley of the Chorokhi and of the Oltis-tsqali is rich in copper and lead. There are iron deposits on the left bank of the Chorokhi and gold is found near Artvini.[2] The narrow valley-ways are fertile too, and the most delicious grapes in all the Caucasus come from the little district of Ligani, between Artvini and the sea. The earlier geographers are vague about this stretch of country. Ptolemy refers to Artanisa;[3] the Georgian Annals indicate

[1] Xenophon's *Anabasis*, IV, lxxi.

[2] See *Carte Economique de la Géorgie* (Labrot, Paris), also Ghambashidze, *Mineral Resources of Trans-Caucasia*.

[3] Ptolemy, V, 10.

GEORGIANS

All decrees and laws which the Central Executive Committee passed had to bear Yenukidze's signature as well as that of Kalinin. Early in 1935 the Transcaucasian Federation approached TsIK with the request that Yenukidze should be relieved of his post so that he could become Prime Minister of the Transcaucasian federal Government. Soon afterwards, Yenukidze was indeed relieved of his post, but not to take up the high office reserved for him. He was dismissed as a punishment for alleged lack of vigilance, for having allowed untrustworthy elements to infiltrate into important positions of the TsIK apparatus. Two and a half years later Yenukidze was executed as a traitor, together with other high-ranking Soviet officials, including the Armenian-born diplomat Karakhan (1889-1937), former Soviet ambassador to Turkey and China. The Yenukidze riddle is easily solved. When Yenukidze was sacked, Stalin had already decided to scrap the Transcaucasian Federation, which was no longer necessary for the checking of local nationalism in view of the consolidation of the central state machinery. Stalin had no need for a strong personality like Yenukidze at the head of the Transcaucasian Government, who might have instilled new life into a dying body. The Federation was formally disbanded in 1936 with the introduction of the new Stalin constitution.

In the place of Ordzhonikidze and Yenukidze, another prominent Georgian penetrated into the supreme Soviet leadership and into the closest circle of Stalin's favourites. His name was Lavrenty Beriya. His principal merit was that he had carried out purges all over Transcaucasia. These had been of such importance for the strengthening of the Soviet régime as a whole that they led to his appointment to the post of all-Union Soviet police chief in December 1938.

## GEORGIA'S ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL MISSION

In the inter-war period the Soviet central authorities considered Georgia primarily from the point of view of its economic usefulness. We have already referred to the manganese mines of Chiaturi. They are not the largest manganese ore deposits in the U.S.S.R., which are those of Nikopol in the Ukraine, but the Chiaturi ores contain a higher percentage of manganese and are famous for their high quality. In the early years of the Soviet régime the Chiaturi manganese played an important part in Russian foreign trade, and as late as 1931 Chiaturi covered 42 per cent of the world demand for that valuable mineral. In later years Chiaturi manganese was less used for export in view of the discovery of new manganese ore deposits in the 'capitalistic world', but Soviet industry itself relied greatly on Chiaturi's output.

Apart from boosting manganese production, the Soviet régime encouraged the increase of Georgia's oil and coal output and founded over

[Ref. category 665, pp. 230-231 -- Analyst]

winters and the greatest precipitation of the USSR are to be found here. Temperatures fluctuate between the winter averages of 37° to 44° F and the summer averages of 73° to 75° F. The yearly rainfall averages 50 to 100 inches. The red lateritic soil supports an extremely abundant and varied subtropical vegetation. In sharp contrast to this region is Eastern Georgia, where the temperatures vary from the January averages of 32°–36° F to the July mean of 82° F. The average yearly rainfall amounts only to about 20 inches. The best agricultural areas are the Kura valley, between Gori and Tbilisi, and Kakhetia. In the mountainous areas average temperatures diminish with relation to the elevation. The forest zone extends from 2,100 to 2,600 feet to 6,000 to 8,300 feet. Above this belt are Alpine meadows, and beyond there are snowy peaks partially covered with glaciers.

The most important mineral resources are manganese (at Chiatura, one of the richest deposits in the world), coal (at Tkibuli and Tkvarcheli), petroleum (in the Shiraki steppe and in the Black Sea littoral), barites (near Kutaisi), rare metals, including molybdenum, antimony, tungsten, and mercury, as well as various types of construction materials. Georgia has numerous mineral springs, with the principal sites at Borzhomi, Abastumani, and Tskhaltubo. The humid climate, together with the mountainous relief, and glaciers in the Greater Caucasus supply Georgia with a large amount of hydroelectric energy. The principal water-power sources are the Rion, the Kura and its affluent, and the Khram, as well as the Black Sea littoral streams the Kodor, the Ingur, and the Adzharis-Tskhali.

Georgians constitute about two thirds of the total population of the Georgian SSR. Among the minorities the Armenians are most numerous (12 percent of the total); they are settled mainly in Tbilisi. Russians, Ukrainians, Greeks, Jews, and Kurds follow with respect to numbers. Several isolated mountain tribes live in the valleys of the Greater Caucasus. Most important among them are the Pshaves, settled along the upper Aragva River, the Khevsurs, to the west, and the Svans, along the upper Ingur River. Georgia has the greatest population density among the Transcaucasian republics, the largest concentration being in Western Georgia and Kakhetia. Three minorities, the Adzhars and the Abkhaz on the Black Sea and the Ossetians on the southern slope of the Greater Caucasus, have been organized into autonomous units within the Georgian SSR.

As a result of the liquidation within the Russian SFSR of several